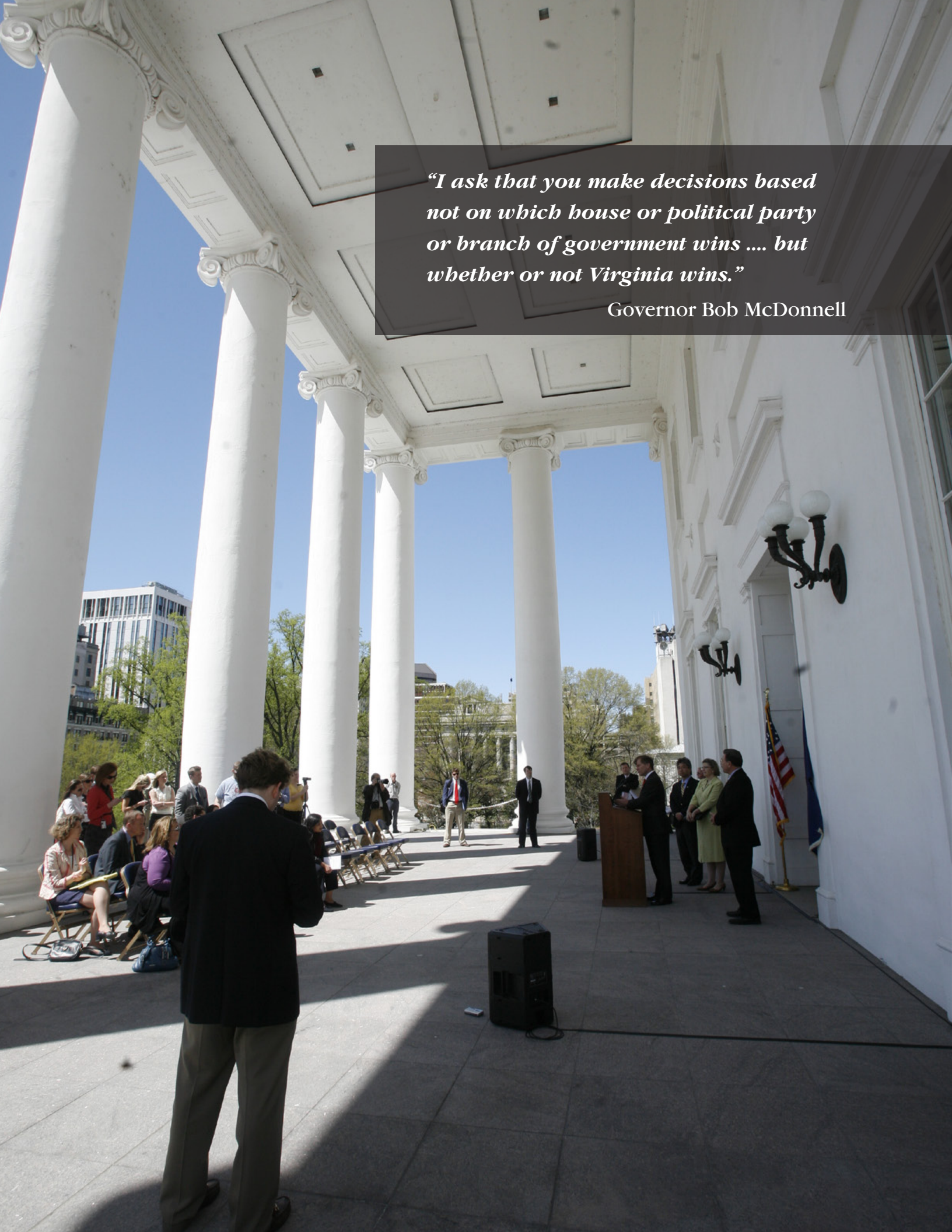


Governor Bob McDonnell

A COMMONWEALTH OF OPPORTUNITY





*"I ask that you make decisions based
not on which house or political party
or branch of government wins ... but
whether or not Virginia wins."*

Governor Bob McDonnell

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About Governor Bob McDonnell



Bob McDonnell was sworn in as the 71st governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia on January 16, 2010. In his campaign for the office he received nearly 59% of the vote, and the most votes of any candidate for governor in Virginia history.

As Virginia's Chief Executive, he has built a record of results.

He reduced state spending to 2006 levels by cutting \$6 billion out of two budgets, and defeating attempts to levy a \$2 billion increase in the state income tax. The governor has focused on job-creation and economic development and has enacted bold new policies to help spur economic growth in the Commonwealth. Since February 2010, the state unemployment rate has fallen from 7.2% to 6.5%, the ninth lowest unemployment rate in the nation.

The governor's 2011 transportation package passed the General Assembly with broad bipartisan support. It creates a framework to put nearly \$4 billion into transportation over just the next three years and is the largest investment made in Virginia's roads, bridges and transit in a generation. Also in the 2011 session, the governor was successful in moving forward his bold higher education plan that creates the pathway to 100,000 more degrees being awarded in the Commonwealth over the next 15 years. The plan will make college more affordable and accessible for Virginia students. McDonnell has also led on major education reforms to bring more charter schools to the Commonwealth and expand virtual learning programs.

The governor has dedicated his life to public service. He served 21 years in the U.S. Army, both active duty and reserve, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1997. Upon graduating from law school in 1989 he served as a Virginia Beach prosecutor. McDonnell was elected to the Virginia House

of Delegates in 1991 and served 14 years representing Virginia Beach. He was elected as the 44th attorney general of Virginia in 2005. As attorney general, McDonnell kept all seven of his campaign promises and successfully passed 92 of his 105 legislative proposals, with strong bipartisan support.

McDonnell was raised in Fairfax County. He graduated from the University of Notre Dame (BBA), Boston University (MSBA) and Regent University (JD and MA). He and his wife Maureen have been married for 34 years. They have 5 children, ages 19-30. Their oldest daughter, Jeanine, served in the U.S. Army, including a tour of duty in Baghdad, Iraq in 2005-2006.

***"The inherent dignity of a good day's work
in a worthwhile pursuit strengthens the soul,
supports the family, and reduces dependence
on government."***

Governor Bob McDonnell



Key Bio Points

- Received the most votes of any candidate for governor in Virginia history
- Closed two budget shortfalls of \$1.8 billion and \$4.2 billion without raising taxes
- Reduced state spending to 2006 levels
- McDonnell's transportation package will put the most new funding into Virginia roads, rail and transit in a generation
- Married 34 years to Maureen McDonnell
- Father of 5 children
- Oldest daughter, Jeanine, was Lieutenant in the U.S. Army and is an Iraq War veteran
- McDonnell served 21 years in the U.S. Army, both on active duty and reserves
- Retired as a Lt. Colonel
- Has a master's degree in business administration and public policy, as well as a law degree
- Worked for a Fortune 500 company
- Is a former prosecutor
- Served 14 years in the Virginia House of Delegates, serving as Chairman of the powerful Courts of Justice Committee and Assistant Majority Leader
- As attorney general, 92 of his 105 legislative proposals were passed into law



A photograph of Governor Bob McDonnell, a man with dark hair wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and blue patterned tie. He is shown from the chest up, facing slightly to the right, speaking into a cluster of microphones held by reporters. The microphones have various station logos, including "NBC 29 WYIS-TV", "CBS 6", and "103.5". In the background, another man in a dark suit and blue tie is partially visible. The scene appears to be a press conference or a media scrum.

“The circumstances of our time demand that we reconsider and restore the proper, limited role of government at every level.”

Governor Bob McDonnell



"....the poster child for fiscal conservatism since balancing Virginia's \$4.2B budget deficit."
The Hotline on Call October 8, 2010

"....the conservative governor worked with Virginia's Democratic Senate and Republican House to roll back the clock four years, returning state spending levels to those of 2006."
CBN, January 3, 2011

"Using pragmatic compromises to defuse partisan squabbles, pushing forward economic development initiatives and delivering what is perhaps the toughest budget ever passed by the General Assembly are marks of political leadership. Since taking over the governor's office in January, we've seen evidence that Bob McDonnell intends to keep Virginia on solid footing as the best state for business."
Virginia Business Magazine, editorial, March 29, 2010

"Most of the country's states confront budget crunches....Virginia has acted more responsibly than many other states, as the governor's remarks above recount, and he deserves the major share of the credit for that."
Richmond Times-Dispatch, editorial, October 14, 2010

"The Virginia General Assembly adjourned its annual legislative session Sunday evening after adopting a two-year, \$82 billion budget that cuts millions from education, health care and public safety -- curtailing state spending more aggressively than any in generations while fulfilling the new Republican governor's promise not to raise taxes."
Washington Post, March 15, 2010

"But in a dismal budget year for states, McDonnell's package represents one of the most ambitious transportation plans likely to emerge anywhere."
Stateline, March 3, 2011

"Breaking the transportation logjam is a major achievement for McDonnell.... By taking advantage of low interest rates, a construction industry still mired in recession and the state's excellent credit rating, McDonnell, through some extraordinary politicking, has achieved a major goal that eluded his predecessors. Congratulations, Mr. Governor."
Lynchburg News & Advance, February 3, 2011

"Gov. Bob McDonnell urged Virginia lawmakers Wednesday to rise above partisanship and help him reform government, fix roads and make college more affordable."
Richmond Times-Dispatch, January 13, 2011



What They're Saying about Governor McDonnell

"Chief among the governor's priorities for Virginia has been job creation."

FOX News, January 22, 2011

"Teresa A. Sullivan, president of the University of Virginia, said **she had been heartened by the bipartisan support for the (higher education) bill and the governor's commitment to following through on his campaign promise to make higher education a priority.**"

*Chronicle of Higher Education,
March 4, 2011*

"Sen. Edd Houck, who put forth a motion to adopt Friday's recommendations in the interim report, comments, **'Some have suggested this is the most significant and comprehensive higher education initiative since the creation of the Community College System 40 years ago.'**"

WHSV-Harrisonburg, December 3, 2010

"Gov. McDonnell has already begun to implement a new era of fiscal responsibility that, coupled with prudent spending and innovative reforms, will improve the way Virginia does business. What we have in Gov. McDonnell is an ideas-driven governor who is dedicated to tackling the state's most difficult issues."

*Daily Press, State Senator Tommy Norment
(R-James City County, Senate Minority Leader)
Op-ed, September 25, 2010*

"State Sen. Charles J. Colgan Sr. is one of the Prince William area's most famous Democrats, but he had lots of good things to say about a prominent Republican on Thursday. That was Gov. Robert F. 'Bob' McDonnell. Colgan, chairman of the budget-writing Senate Finance Committee, told a gathering of the region's chambers of commerce that **McDonnell was instrumental in helping budget negotiators reach consensus when they had to make \$4 billion in cuts to state programs.** 'He presented a very cooperative atmosphere,' Colgan told the crowd at the Montclair Country Club."

InsideNova, April 2, 2010

"...An audit of the Virginia Department of Transportation ordered by Gov. Robert F. McDonnell (R) has unearthed buckets of cash -- \$1 billion or more -- sitting in the department's accounts and ready to be spent on badly needed maintenance and construction projects. The money should provide a badly needed shot in the arm both for the commonwealth's ailing road system and for its shaky economy.... Give Mr. McDonnell credit for good instincts as a steward of state funds."

*The Washington Post,
editorial September 26, 2010*



“From his first day in office, Mr. McDonnell took a tax increase off the table because he says “it will injure our economy, slow the recovery, and cost us jobs.” His strategy to cut spending across most categories stands in contrast to Washington’s, where everything except defense gets branded as “stimulus” to get more money. The feds could do worse than employ the Virginia strategy to close its deficit chasm—and they almost certainly will.”

*The Wall Street Journal,
editorial August 24, 2010*

“....He successfully navigated that minefield of a \$4.2 billion shortfall — without raising taxes.If remediation of the budget had been the administration’s lone achievement, these first 100 days would have been worthy of note. But Mr. McDonnell realized three other goals — creating new jobs for Virginians (particularly in recession-wracked locales such as Danville, Martinsville and the Southwest coalfields), advancing his educational reform agenda (charter schools) and placing the state first in line to reap the benefits of off-shore energy production....On those issues important to all Virginians — taxation, jobs, schools — the man did not disappoint. Priorities were set and addressed. Virginians, we hope, can anticipate more of the same in days to come.”

Harrisonburg Daily News Record/Winchester Star, “The First 100 Days” editorial, May 1, 2010

“In Virginia, Governor Bob McDonnell has been busy. In office for only six months, the governor’s office announced that McDonnell has “defeated former governor Tim Kaine’s proposed \$2 billion increase in the state income tax, kept existing car tax relief in place and brought Democrats and Republicans together to close the shortfall through spending reductions, and without a single tax increase.” According to government figures, **Virginia’s state budget ended the 2010 fiscal year on June 30 with a surplus of about \$220 million, which is an amazing turnaround in half a year.”**

*Cal Thomas national column,
July 16, 2010*

“Bob McDonnell won the governorship in the most second most impressive gubernatorial landslide since the rise of competitive elections. The GOP ticket swept the three statewide offices. Republicans also widened their margin in the House of Delegates. Wins in Northern Virginia proved particularly impressive.”

*Richmond Times-Dispatch, editorial,
December 28, 2009*





“Much of the marvelous story of America was written in Virginia. And much of her future will be written here as well.”

Governor Bob McDonnell

The McDonnell Administration: A Record of Results



- In November 2009, Bob McDonnell received 59% of the vote in the Virginia gubernatorial race, and the most votes of any candidate for governor in Virginia history
- He was Inaugurated on January 16, 2010

First Year in Office

- Governor McDonnell immediately inherited two budget shortfalls
- The first was \$1.8 billion in the concluding FY 2010 budget
- Through holding the line on discretionary spending, putting in place a hiring freeze in state government, making conservative revenue estimates and incentivizing state employees to save taxpayer dollars, the governor turned that shortfall into a \$403 million surplus in just 6 months
- The second shortfall was an even larger \$4.2 billion in the FY 2011/2012 budget introduced by outgoing Governor Tim Kaine
- No governor had ever taken office confronting a budget shortfall of this size
- The governor closed the historic \$4.2 billion budget shortfall that he inherited for FY 2011/2012 through spending reductions, not tax hikes
- The \$2.3 billion in budget recommendations made by the governor was five times greater than any first-session Virginia governor has ever put forward
- The need for such a large amount of budget recommendations from a first-session governor resulted from outgoing Governor Tim Kaine sending down the FY 2011/2012 budget with a \$2 billion income tax hike included to close the shortfall
- It would have been the biggest tax hike in Virginia history
- Governor McDonnell brought Democrats and Republicans together to reject Kaine's tax hike
- The budget was passed without a tax increase and with car tax relief in place
- It reduced state spending to 2006 levels
- The governor had the most successful first legislative session of any Virginia governor in modern history





The McDonnell Administration: A Record of Results

- His pension reform, requiring new state employees to contribute to their own retirements for the first time in a generation, will save Virginia \$3 billion over the next 10 years
- The governor's hiring freeze in state government is saving \$20 million a year
- 80% of Governor McDonnell's legislative proposals passed the General Assembly in his first session as Virginia's Chief Executive
- Additionally, the General Assembly approved 92% of his 213 amendments to the budget and previously passed legislation
- The governor implemented significant education reform through his "Opportunity to Learn" legislation which opened Virginia to new, high-quality charter schools
- The governor passed an aggressive economic development package to grow jobs and provide economic incentives for new investments in Virginia
- Virginia was named "the most pro-business state in America" in August 2010 by the Pollina Corporation and one of the top two states to in which to do business by CNBC
- Microsoft announced the largest economic investment in the history of Southern Virginia
- Fortune 100 company Northrop Grumman chose Fairfax for their new corporate headquarters, moving to the Commonwealth from California
- The governor also launched major commissions and initiatives on higher education, job creation, government reform, national security and military installations, health reform and housing
- He ordered an independent performance and financial audit of Virginia's Department of Transportation which uncovered \$1.5 billion available for transportation projects that was previously unspent






Second Year in Office (To Date)

- The governor's comprehensive transportation funding package passed the General Assembly with broad bipartisan support
- The package creates the framework to put nearly \$4 billion into transportation over the next three years
- It is the biggest investment in transportation in Virginia since 1986
- The governor's "Top Jobs" higher education reform act also received broad bipartisan support in the General Assembly
- The act creates the pathway to 100,000 more degrees being awarded in the Commonwealth over the next 15 years
- Speaking about the governor's higher education efforts, Democratic State Senator Edd Houck said, "Some have suggested this is the most significant and comprehensive higher education initiative since the creation of the Community College System 40 years ago."
- The governor also was successful in gaining legislative approval for his efforts to eliminate various state boards and commissions and make state government smaller and more efficient
- 92% of the governor's 2011 legislative agenda was passed by the Republican-majority House of Delegates and Democratic-majority State Senate
- In January, the Commonwealth posted a 12.6% increase in revenue over the prior year; the third straight month featuring a revenue increase of greater than 9%



The image shows two flags flying against a clear blue sky. The top flag is the United States flag, with its stars and stripes clearly visible. Below it is the flag of the Commonwealth of Virginia, which is dark blue with a white circular seal in the center. The seal depicts a Native American figure holding a bow and arrow, with the word 'VIRGINIA' at the top and '1776' at the bottom. A semi-transparent blue rectangular box is overlaid on the right side of the American flag, containing white text.

*“Government should have this clear goal:
Where opportunity is absent, we must create it.
Where opportunity is limited, we must expand
it. Where opportunity is unequal, we must make
it open to everyone.”*

Governor Bob McDonnell

The McDonnell Administration: “By the Numbers”



- 1:** Virginia's Ranking in Pollina Corporate's Top 10 Pro-Business States for 2010
- 5:** Virginia's National Ranking in Wine Production
- 12.6:** Percent Increase in January 2011 Revenue Collections
- 19:** Previously Closed Rest Stops Reopened by Governor McDonnell
- 27:** Governors Joining Governor McDonnell in Request for Expedited Review of Federal Healthcare Lawsuits
- 40:** New Jobs Created by Guardian Industries in City of Galax
- 70:** MPH. New Speed Limit on Broad Stretches of Virginia Interstates
- 80:** Percent of Governor's Legislative Proposals Passed by General Assembly in 2010
- 92:** Percent of Governor's Legislative Proposals Passed by General Assembly in 2011
- 120:** New Jobs Created in City of Hampton when TRG Customer Solutions Expanded Its Operations
- 177:** Jobs Created in Lynchburg when J. Crew Group, Inc. Expanded Its Distribution Center
- 240:** Jobs Created in Pulaski County when Phoenix Packaging Operations Chose Virginia over Five Other States for the Site of Its First Manufacturing Facility in the United States
- 335:** Economic Development Projects Launched in Virginia since Inauguration Day
- 900:** Projects Statewide Estimated to be Impacted by Governor's Transportation Plan
- 1,000:** Jobs Added by Capital One When They Expanded in Virginia
- 1,318:** Words in Governor McDonnell's 2010 Republican Response to the State of the Union
- 2006:** Year Virginia's State Spending Level Returned to Following McDonnell's Budget Cuts
- 4,000:** Acres of Farmland Protected on 27 Farms in 11 Localities through Farmland Preservation Grants
- 8,000:** Attendees at McDonnell's Gubernatorial Inauguration
- 55,000:** Acres of Land Conserved to Date Under the McDonnell Administration
- 100,000:** Additional Higher Education Degrees to be Awarded Over Next 15 Years in the Commonwealth
- 161,000:** Potholes Patched During March 2010 “Pothole Blitz”
- \$35.7 Million:** Increased Amount in Governor's Opportunity Fund to Attract Job Creating Businesses to Virginia
- \$1.4 Billion:** Amount of Unused Funding for Transportation Found by the Governor's Audit of the Virginia Department of Transportation
- \$4 Billion:** In New Funding for Transportation in Virginia Over the Next Three Years - Largest Investment in a Generation

AND THE GRAND FINALE:

- \$6 Billion:** Total Amount of Budget Shortfalls Inherited by Governor McDonnell
- 0:** Taxes Increased to Close the Shortfalls

*“Our administration will demand excellence,
reward performance, provide choices and
celebrate achievement.”*


Governor Bob McDonnell





THE MCDONNELL ADMINISTRATION: IN THE NEWS

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Preserving Virginia's Natural Wonders	30



“The people of Virginia are strong in times of trouble; giving in times of need; resilient in the face of adversity; and, committed to seizing the opportunities before them.”

Governor Bob McDonnell



GETTING VIRGINIA MOVING AGAIN

\$4 Billion for Transportation: The Most Funding in a Generation

The plan is expected to inject \$4 billion into state transportation projects over three years. Some 900 projects have been identified to receive the funds, including light rail in Hampton Roads, a new tube for the Midtown Tunnel, and widening Dominion Boulevard in Chesapeake and Lynnhaven Parkway in Virginia Beach.

The bill also would create a transportation infrastructure bank, allowing the state to issue up to \$1.1 billion in GARVEE bonds and use toll credits for a state match. The state also would be able to accelerate the sales of bonds from 2007 transportation legislation to \$600 million a year and allow up to \$1.8 billion in bonds during the remainder of McDonnell's administration.

The bill also would increase the availability of revenue sharing, eliminating the \$1 million cap per project and \$50 million program maximum, according to the release.

Virginian-Pilot, January 24, 2011



His transportation proposal represents the largest infusion of funds into the state's cash-strapped highway coffers in more than two decades - and will help fund 900 projects.

Washington Post, March 1, 2011

Breaking the transportation logjam is a major achievement for McDonnell....

By taking advantage of low interest rates, a construction industry still mired in recession and the state's excellent credit rating, McDonnell, through some extraordinary politicking, has achieved a major goal that eluded his predecessors.

Congratulations, Mr. Governor.

Lynchburg News & Advance, February 3, 2011



Building a Commonwealth of Opportunity: In the News

VDOT Audit

The Virginia Department of Transportation is sitting on \$1 billion in reserve funds that could be used for new construction and maintenance, an audit ordered by Gov. Bob McDonnell has found.

“That is unacceptable,” McDonnell told a news conference today. “Money has been sitting in the state’s wallet, while Virginians have been sitting in traffic.”

Because of the audit, \$800 million to \$900 million of maintenance and construction contracts will be awarded by Dec. 31, Secretary of Transportation Sean Connaughton said.

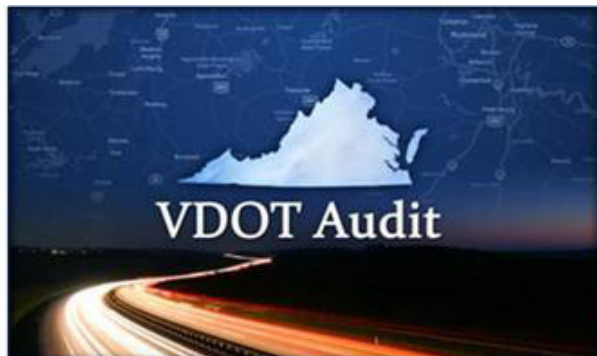
Richmond Times-Dispatch, September 23, 2010

The Virginia Department of Transportation left more than \$500 million in maintenance funding unspent last year, even as the agency was reducing its work force and cutting services because of declining revenues, according to an audit commissioned by Gov. Bob McDonnell’s administration.

Based on the audit’s findings, McDonnell said Thursday that VDOT soon can plow \$614 million in unspent maintenance and construction funds into the agency’s six-year road improvements plan. The audit recommends additional steps to steer an additional \$840 million in existing funds to highway projects over the next six years.

The audit concluded that VDOT held too much maintenance and construction funding in reserve during the economic downturn, slowing maintenance and preventing long-delayed road projects from moving forward. The Republican governor blamed the situation on “bad management decisions” made during the tenure of his predecessor, Democrat Tim Kaine.

Roanoke Times, September 24, 2010





Rest Areas

Fulfilling a top campaign pledge of the state's new Republican governor, Virginia's Commonwealth Transportation Board has voted to reopen 19 Interstate rest stops closed last year to save \$9 million and help bridge a \$4.2 billion deficit.

Gov. Bob McDonnell, who was sworn in Saturday to replace Democrat Tim Kaine, told the Commonwealth Transportation Board that "inmate labor and private contributions would help manage the costs of reopening the rest stops," the Associated Press writes.

USA Today, January 20, 2010



Virginia Gov. Robert F. McDonnell (R) announced Wednesday that the state will reopen 19 highway rest stops that were shuttered this summer because of budget cuts.

The Commonwealth Transportation Board's unanimous vote Wednesday makes good on a campaign pledge to reopen the rest stops closed by McDonnell's predecessor, Timothy M. Kaine (D).

Four of the rest stops will reopen by Feb. 17. Eight more will be reopened by March 17, and the final seven by April 17.

The rest stops will be reopened using private contributions through an "adopt a rest stop" program and \$3 million from the state's maintenance reserve fund. The state will also employ the labor of nonviolent prison inmates.

"There are very few things I have heard more about in the last six months that have been a source of discontent and inconvenience to the citizens than not being able to access those rest stops," McDonnell told reporters after the board's meeting. "For travelers to come to Virginia and see tape across the entrance to the rest stop and a big 'closed' sign, it's a bigger sign that Virginia is closed for business."

Washington Post, January 21, 2010





Building a Commonwealth of Opportunity: In the News

KEEPING VIRGINIANS SAFE AND SECURE

Operation SOAR

Fifteen foreign-born sex criminals living in Virginia and the District of Columbia who previously had avoided deportation were arrested this week in a statewide sweep and soon will be deported, authorities announced yesterday.

The arrests are part of a continuing crackdown in Virginia to deport immigrants -- some of whom are here legally -- who have committed sex crimes. The 13 immigrants arrested in Virginia and two in the District of Columbia had convictions for sex offenses that included sexual battery of a minor, aggravated sexual battery of a child and carnal knowledge of a teenager.

"I think it's noteworthy that most of those offenders have committed those crimes within the last year or two," Gov. Bob McDonnell said during a news conference at the state Capitol to announce the arrests. "And so these are people that are clear and present [and] current dangers to the citizens of Virginia."

Richmond Times-Dispatch, October 9, 2010



287g

Gov. Bob McDonnell is asking the federal government to deputize Virginia's state troopers to enforce federal immigration law.

In a letter to Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano, McDonnell formally seeks what is known as a 287(g) agreement.

The agreements with federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials permit participating state and local police to question and detain illegal immigrants suspected in crimes.

McDonnell said reaching an agreement for the state police would improve public safety in Virginia while providing help to undermanned federal immigration agencies.

AP, August 12, 2010





Gov. Bob McDonnell said yesterday that he envisions any Virginia State Police troopers given federal immigration enforcement powers would use them to address those “who are engaged in major drug offenses or violent offenses such as murder, manslaughter, rape, robbery and kidnapping, as well as DUI offenses.”

He made the distinction in a formal request sent this week to the Department of Homeland Security, asking for an agreement to authorize some Virginia State Police troopers to perform functions of federal immigration officers.

The letter, dated Aug. 10 to Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano, comes after months of conversations on the subject between McDonnell’s administration and federal authorities.

The governor wants Homeland Security to enter into a so-called 287g agreement with the state, a pact that at least seven jurisdictions in Virginia already have in some form. The agreement is named for a section of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

“The [memorandum of understanding] would include how participating State Police personnel will be nominated, trained, authorized and supervised in performing the immigration enforcement functions specified in the agreement,” McDonnell wrote.

Richmond Times-Dispatch, August 13, 2010





CONSERVATIVE, RESPONSIBLE LEADERSHIP ON VIRGINIA'S BUDGET

Surplus

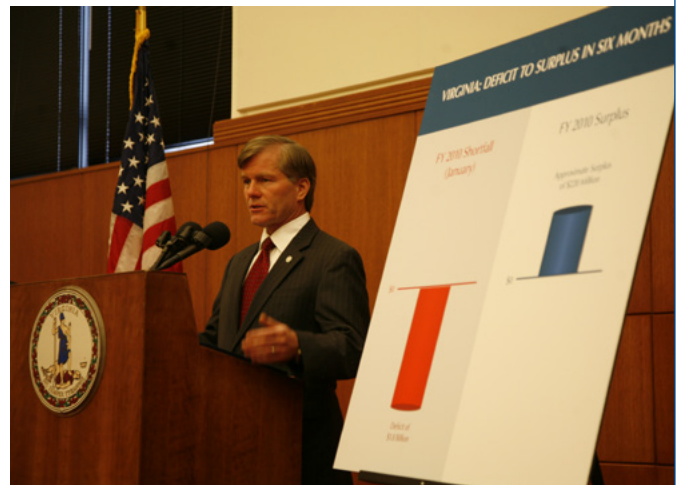
Gov. Bob McDonnell is confirming this morning that Virginia closed the most recent spending cycle with \$403.2 million in leftover funds.

McDonnell, in a report to the General Assembly money committees, says most of the money is spoken for. But he credited the politically divided legislature and his Democratic predecessor with taking steps to achieve the announced savings through the continuing economic downturn.

"This modest surplus and fiscal turnaround was achieved by two administrations, two houses of the General Assembly and two political parties," said McDonnell.

McDonnell today is announcing that state agencies scraped together \$174.7 million in unspent funds. Added to the \$228.5 million in savings announced earlier this summer, the total in unspent cash is \$403.2 million.

Richmond Times-Dispatch, August 20, 2010



Gov. Bob McDonnell told state lawmakers Thursday that most of Virginia's budget surplus has been spoken for and urged caution as the state deals with lingering fiscal and economic uncertainty.

Virginia finished the last fiscal year with a budget surplus of \$403.2 million because of stronger-than-expected tax collections and spending restraint by state government agencies. McDonnell hailed the "slight economic growth" that helped generate the surplus and credited leaders in both parties, including former Gov. Tim Kaine, for making tough budget cuts to balance the state's books.

"This modest surplus and fiscal turnaround was achieved by two administrations, two houses of the General Assembly and two political parties," the Republican governor said in a speech to the legislature's key money committees.

Roanoke Times, August 20, 2010



Balanced Budget

The Virginia General Assembly adjourned its annual legislative session Sunday evening after adopting a two-year, \$82 billion budget that cuts millions from education, health care and public safety -- curtailing state spending more aggressively than any in generations while fulfilling the new Republican governor's promise not to raise taxes.

The trade-off for holding firm against a tax increase to plug a \$4 billion hole was a spending plan that cuts deeply into virtually every area of state responsibility....

Washington Post, March 15, 2010





Building a Commonwealth of Opportunity: In the News

Virginia's new two-year budget would slash funding for public schools and health care programs, reduce aid to localities and increase some fees to offset a \$4.2 billion shortfall, reflecting a fiscal crisis Gov. Bob McDonnell described as "the most difficult period of time in modern Virginia history."

Both houses of the General Assembly passed the compromise spending bill late Sunday afternoon, about 16 hours after negotiators from the two chambers struck a deal on an austere budget that will have far-reaching effects on state and local services. The Republican-run House of Delegates passed the budget by a vote of 73-23. The vote in the Democratic-controlled Senate was 34-6....

The compromise budget cuts more deeply into public services than the two-year, \$75 billion plan that former Gov. Tim Kaine introduced in December. Both houses rejected Kaine's plan to eliminate \$950 million in annual car tax relief subsidies, and there was no support for Kaine's proposed income tax increase to generate revenue for localities.

Roanoke Times, March 15, 2010

Reduced Spending

...He points to cutting \$4 billion from the state budget in his first legislative session last year, paring back spending to 2006 levels and not raising taxes.

Washington Post, March 1, 2011

However, raising taxes wasn't an option for McDonnell.... Instead, the conservative governor worked with Virginia's Democratic Senate and Republican House to roll back the clock four years, returning state spending levels to those of 2006.

CBN, January 3, 2011





ENSURING “THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN” FOR ALL VIRGINIANS

Higher Education

The House of Delegates and the Senate have easily passed Gov. Robert F. McDonnell’s higher education bill, which is designed to be the first step toward the governor’s goal of awarding 100,000 new associate and bachelor’s degrees over the next 15 years through financial aid, grants to virtual schools, and other programs.

McDonnell (R) wants to provide a stable funding source for schools so they can avoid the dramatic tuition increases they have had to implement in recent years. Colleges and universities would be provided financial incentives to fulfill education goals, including graduating more students in four years and awarding more degrees in high-demand science and technology fields.

Washington Post, February 7, 2011



Many state governors are proposing deep cuts in higher education this year. But Gov. Robert F. McDonnell, of Virginia, is bucking the trend by pledging to restore some of the cutbacks that public colleges have endured during the economic downturn, and proposing a measure that would provide institutions with a fair share of state money in the future.

The plan, which has broad support in the state’s General Assembly, is meant to fulfill his goal to increase the number of Virginians with college degrees by 100,000 during the next 15 years, and in particular the number who earn degrees in science and technology.

“These reforms will help us attract new employers to Virginia and better prepare our citizens to fill the jobs that already exist in the state today,” Mr. McDonnell, a Republican, said... The cost of the legislation... is an investment in the state’s economic future, the governor said, arguing that higher education returns more tax revenue to the state than it costs.



Building a Commonwealth of Opportunity: In the News

.... Teresa A. Sullivan, president of the University of Virginia, said she had been heartened by the bipartisan support for the bill and the governor's commitment to following through on his campaign promise to make higher education a priority.

Chronicle of Higher Education, March 4, 2011



The Virginia Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2011 (Senate Bill 1459), which will help reach Gov. Robert McDonnell's goal of providing more students with the chance to earn college degrees, unanimously passed the House of Delegates Monday.

The purpose of the bill, as written in its legislative summary, is "fueling strong economic growth in the Commonwealth and preparing Virginians for the top job opportunities in the knowledge-driven economy of the 21st century."

Culpeper Star-Exponent, February 23, 2011

Sen. Edd Houck, who put forth a motion to adopt Friday's recommendations in the interim report, comments, "Some have suggested this is the most significant and comprehensive higher education initiative since the creation of the Community College System 40 years ago."

WHSV-Harrisonburg, December 3, 2010

Charter Schools

Gov. Robert F. McDonnell (R) unveiled an ambitious proposal Wednesday to expand the number of charter schools in Virginia as a way to offer a publicly funded, privately run education alternative.

McDonnell also said he wants to create virtual schools in which students can learn outside traditional classrooms and laboratory schools that would benefit from partnerships with Virginia colleges and universities.

All three proposals must be approved by the General Assembly during its 60-day session, which ends next month.

The recently inaugurated governor has declared charter schools a top priority in his first legislative session. He has long praised President Obama for his support of charters, and he recently hired a nationally known charter advocate as his education secretary.



“A child’s educational opportunity should be determined by her intellect and work ethic, not by her zip code.”

Governor Bob McDonnell



Building a Commonwealth of Opportunity: In the News

"Charter schools aren't a silver bullet," McDonnell said at a news conference on Capitol Square, where he was joined by several lawmakers, former governor L. Douglas Wilder (D) and a few children. "But they are an important option for parents and for children seeking new options in a public education system."

McDonnell's proposal would make it easier for charter schools to open in a state that has not welcomed them by allowing applicants to circumvent local approval processes.

Washington Post, February 11, 2010

The Virginia Senate on Tuesday passed Gov. Robert F. McDonnell's proposal designed to expand the number of the state's charter schools....

"I applaud the Republicans and Democrats who came together today to help Virginia schoolchildren, especially those who are at-risk and disadvantaged, gain more educational opportunities," McDonnell said in a statement.

McDonnell declared charter schools a top priority in his first legislative session. He has praised President Obama for his support of charters and hopes it will help the state receive millions of dollars through the federal Race to the Top grant program. Charters are freer to experiment with schedules and curricula than regular public schools. Since Virginia began allowing charter schools 12 years ago, only three have opened. A fourth is set to open in Richmond in the fall.

Washington Post, March 10, 2010





MAKING VIRGINIA THE ENERGY CAPITOL OF THE EAST COAST

Governor's Energy Conference

Gov. Bob McDonnell challenged business people today to suggest ways that state government can aid the development of Virginia's energy sources.

"I want to solve problems," McDonnell said. "I want to fix things."

.... Calling energy a "critically important issue," McDonnell said he favors an "all-of-the-above strategy" that involves increased development of Virginia's fossil fuels such as coal; possible alternative sources such as wind; and also nuclear power.

McDonnell renewed his call for the drilling of oil and natural gas off the Virginia coast — a possibility that the federal government put on hold indefinitely in spring, following the Gulf of Mexico oil spill.

Richmond Times-Dispatch, October 14, 2010



Virginia's future as a leader in energy production remains linked to indefinitely delayed plans for oil and natural gas drilling miles off the state coastline, Gov. Bob McDonnell said Wednesday at an energy conference he convened.

That exploration "is a part of American s' energy future that should go forward," McDonnell said....

The governor's message echoed many of the themes he's previously stressed, including the need to produce more energy in Virginia, a state he said imports nearly one-third of its electricity.

Meeting that demand requires a strategy that relies on traditional fuels, nuclear power, and biological and renewable alternatives such as offshore wind, McDonnell said.

"The best winds in the country anywhere outside of the United States Congress are off the shores of Virginia," McDonnell said, taking a jab at federal officials. "What we've got to do is find a way to harness it in a commercially practicable way."

Virginian-Pilot, October 14, 2010



PRESERVING VIRGINIA'S NATURAL WONDERS

Watershed Improvement Plan

Virginia's revised plan to clean up the Chesapeake Bay has been approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as part of a broader strategy to reduce the flow of nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment into the bay.

The overarching plan -- encompassing a watershed that covers 64,000 square miles in six states and Washington, D.C. -- is an ambitious effort to restore a waterway harmed by pollutants.

Shawn Garvin, an EPA regional administrator, described it as "by far, the most comprehensive and rigorous road map to restoration that we've ever had."

...In a statement, Gov. Bob McDonnell called the revised version "a stringent but workable plan that demonstrates Virginia's commitment to cleaning up the Chesapeake Bay while providing for continued economic growth in the Commonwealth."

Virginian-Pilot, December 30, 2010



...Virginia is poised to try a new approach to an old problem: farm pollution.

A bill approved by the House and Senate and favored by Republican Gov. Bob McDonnell will introduce a new tool, called resource management plans, in the fight to restore the Bay without overregulating agriculture, one of the state's richest industries.

Essentially, the plans will be voluntary assessments of what each of the state's 47,000 farms is doing to control pollutants - fertilizer runoff, eroding soils, animal wastes - and what each can do better to curb them.

If a farmer crafts such a plan, implements it, and gets it certified as legitimate and working, that farmer would be deemed in compliance with any rules coming from Richmond or Washington regarding the new Bay cleanup initiative, known as a "pollution diet" or a TMDL.

Virginian-Pilot, February 26, 2011



Land Conservation

Farmland preservation grants totaling \$100,000 are heading to eight Virginia localities.

The grants announced Thursday by Gov. Bob McDonnell are intended to compensate landowners who permanently preserve their land by placing them in a perpetual conservation easement.

AP, January 7, 2011



The Nature Conservancy has placed 13,350 acres of land in Dragon Run Swamp on the Middle Peninsula in a conservation easement, the largest in Virginia history.

Dragon Run is considered one of the most ecologically important areas in the Chesapeake Bay region. Most of it is in Middlesex County and drains into the Piankatank River.

Linda Crowe, director of land protection for the Nature Conservancy, said the acreage is the same size as Manhattan Island. "This is quite special," she said.

Gov. Bob McDonnell hailed the easement, which protects the land from development. He said he has pledged to conserve 400,000 acres during his term -- the same amount that was conserved under former Gov. Timothy M. Kaine.

Richmond Times-Dispatch, February 4, 2010





"Working together – Republicans, Democrats and Independents alike – Virginia will continue to blaze the trail of opportunity and prosperity."

Governor Bob McDonnell

Inaugural Address of Governor Robert F. McDonnell



Richmond, Virginia

January 16, 2010

Thank you.

Mr. Speaker.

Lt. Governor Bolling.

Attorney General Cuccinelli.

Members of the General Assembly.

Distinguished guests from around the world and across the country, family and friends, my fellow Virginians.

Good afternoon!

We gather today on the steps of our magnificent and newly renovated State Capitol.

From this hill the land rolls gently down to the James River, the waterway of the Settlers in 1607.

From this place, the sweep of history has moved us forward to today.

This is the cradle of democracy for Virginia and America.

Governor Thomas Jefferson designed this Capitol building.

Governor Patrick Henry came here for the laying of its cornerstone.

I am humbled today to follow in their historic footsteps.

The General Assembly first convened in this new building during the first term of America's first President, Virginia's George Washington.

Behind me, in the Rotunda, are the busts of the eight Virginians who became President.

It was here that Robert E. Lee, the son of a Virginia Governor, was commissioned as Commander of the Commonwealth's military forces as a young nation split into war.

It was here, just four years later, that President Abraham Lincoln came to begin the process of reuniting our war-torn nation, walking the streets of still smoldering Richmond.

And it was here, 125 years after Lincoln's visit that a grandson of slaves, L. Douglas Wilder, took the Oath of Office as the nation's first African-American Governor.

And it is here, today, that an average middle class kid from Fairfax County, a grandson of Irish immigrants, is given the enormous honor of becoming the 71st Governor of Virginia.

As it turns out, I succeed another descendent of Irish immigrants, Governor Timothy Kaine.

On behalf of the grateful people of Virginia, I thank Governor Kaine for his leadership and service to our Commonwealth.

Today's Virginia is a thriving and diverse home of nearly 8 million people, with one in ten born outside the United States.



Inaugural Address of Governor Robert F. McDonnell

A state of rich history and strong people, we do face many challenges together.

We do not face the challenges of forming a new government or securing a young nation, as did Washington, Jefferson and Henry.

We do not encounter the devastation and destruction of Civil War, as did Lincoln and Lee.

We do not struggle with the injustice of slavery and its legacy of segregation as did Governor Wilder as a young man.

We do not march into bullets and artillery shells, as did the Greatest Generation on the beaches of Normandy and the islands of the Pacific. Two members of that generation, who served in World War II, my father Jack McDonnell and my father-in-law Frank Gardner, join us here today.

On behalf of a grateful Commonwealth I thank them, and all military members and veterans, for their incredible sacrifice and service to our nation that continues today.

The actions of those patriots that came before us had a common purpose to create and expand freedom and opportunity for the generations that came behind them.

The creation of, and desire for, new opportunity has shaped Virginia from its foundation.

It was in seeking the Opportunity of a New World that Captain John Smith and 104 settlers braved the perilous Atlantic to step onto the sands of Cape Henry in April 1607.

It was in securing the Opportunity of a New Nation that Virginia patriots joined together with their fellow colonists in the first fight for freedom and independence, and thus was born a country of ordered liberty that, 234 years later, is the beacon of hope for the world.

It was in seizing the Opportunity of equality and education that a courageous 16 year-old girl named Barbara Johns, memorialized behind this majestic Capitol at the Virginia Civil Rights Memorial, stood up and walked out of Moton High School in Farmville 59 years ago this spring.

New opportunity helped them meet the challenges of their time.

Greater opportunity will help us meet the challenges of ours.

Together we must create jobs and economic opportunities.

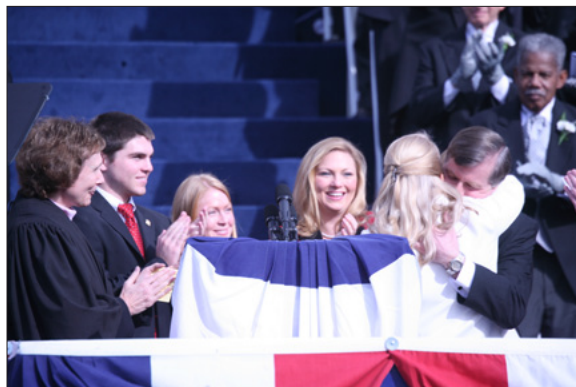
Provide new educational opportunities for all Virginians.

And enhance family and community opportunities by easing government burdens on free people.

As Virginians, we believe that government must help foster a society in which all our people can use their God-given talents in liberty to pursue the American Dream.

Where opportunity is absent, we must create it.
Where opportunity is limited, we must expand it.
Where opportunity is unequal, we must make it open to everyone.

Our Administration will be dedicated to building "A Commonwealth of Opportunity" for all Virginians.





It starts with restoring economic opportunity to Virginians in every corner of our Commonwealth.

Tens of thousands of our family members, friends and neighbors have lost their jobs.

Thousands more worry they could be next.

As we confront the worst economy in generations, the creation of new job opportunities for all our citizens is the obligation of our time, so all Virginians who seek a good job can find meaningful work and the dignity that comes with it.

Virginia has received high rankings over the years for being a business-friendly state.

Those rankings speak well of our past. They do not determine our future.

Competition for jobs is intense among the states, and between nations. States are aggressively positioning themselves to best appeal to job creators and entrepreneurs.

We must make this the best state in which to start and grow a small business.

It is why we will reduce burdensome taxation and regulation that impede job-creation.

And, it is why, even in these tough times, we will have the foresight to invest today in ideas and policies that increase economic prosperity tomorrow.

This economic crisis has touched every Virginian.

Declining home values and diminished retirement accounts have wiped away in just a few months the accumulated savings of many years.

As jobs are lost and consumer confidence remains low, state revenues have declined, and an historic budget shortfall has stretched into the billions. Thus, like so many households and businesses across the Commonwealth, state government needs to devise new ways to operate and find savings.

This austerity won't be easy, but it is necessary. The circumstances of our time demand that we reconsider and restore the proper role of government. Without reform the continued growth of government threatens our very prosperity.



Inaugural Address of Governor Robert F. McDonnell

We must properly fund the core priorities of government, but — equally important — we must utilize innovation, privatization, and consolidations to deliver government services more effectively.

And as we enact these reforms we must remember this: that government cannot guarantee individual outcomes, but equality of opportunity must be guaranteed for all.

All Virginians must have the same fundamental opportunities to work hard, live free and succeed.

Access to a quality education is the foundation of future opportunity. My Dad stressed to me as a child that to get a good job, you need a good education. It was true then and even more true today.

Virginians are blessed with many great schools with dedicated, professional teachers like my sister Nancy in Amherst, who work tirelessly to mold the minds and character of the next generation.

To compete in this global economy every young Virginian must have the opportunity of a world-class education from pre-school to college.

A child's future prospects should be as unlimited as his intelligence, integrity and work ethic can take him. No child in Virginia should have her future determined by her place of birth or zip code.

We will work with President Obama to expand high-quality charter schools and institute performance pay to our great teachers.

More money must go to the classroom and less into administration, and new opportunities in science, technology, engineering, math and healthcare must be created through our schools and colleges.

And let us recognize that a high school degree is no longer the finish line in a global economy. We must create affordable new pathways to earning a college degree and make a commitment to confer 100,000 additional degrees over the next 15 years. We must make our community colleges national leaders in workforce development and career training.

These are investments that will pay individual and societal dividends for many years to come.


Barbara Johns was willing to risk everything for the simple opportunity of a good education. Surely, sixty years later, we can work together to provide that opportunity to all Virginia children.

Our Administration will demand excellence, reward performance, provide choices and celebrate achievement.

God has bestowed upon our Commonwealth an amazing wealth of natural resources. Virginians have the intellectual capital to use these resources to create new jobs, reduce our energy bills, and make our nation more energy independent.

We will make Virginia the "Energy Capital of the East Coast." By growing the natural gas and coal industries, expanding the use of nuclear power, and promoting new energy technologies like wind, solar and biomass.

And we will champion environmentally-safe offshore energy exploration and production, bringing with it thousands of new jobs, hundreds of millions in new state revenue and billions in new investment.

A photograph of Governor Bob McDonnell, an older man with grey hair, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and striped tie. He is smiling and waving his right hand towards a large crowd of people. The crowd is diverse in age and appearance, with many people looking towards him. In the background, there are green stadium bleachers and city buildings under a bright sky. A semi-transparent dark box containing text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

“It is right to help one another. It is right to work together to get results and solve problems. It is right to provide opportunities for all.”

Governor Bob McDonnell



Inaugural Address of Governor Robert F. McDonnell



We must also seize the opportunity to improve our transportation system by getting long overdue projects under way, and utilizing innovative ideas to build the roads, bridges, rail and ports we need.

A better transportation system will create new opportunities for Virginians across the state.

These are policies focused on addressing the real problems our people face, and delivering results.

I've had people tell me they fear that America may no longer be the land of opportunity it has always been, and that Virginia's history in

playing a leading role in the life of our nation may be just that, history. I say: They are wrong.

Working together — Republicans, Democrats and Independents alike — Virginia will continue to blaze the trail of opportunity and prosperity.

And like the mechanic looking to the owner's manual to troubleshoot the automobile, we should look to the Founders and their writings for wisdom.

The Founders capstone on the Constitution is the Bill of Rights. No federal mandate nor program crafted by either political party should undermine the central principle of federalism, enshrined in the birth certificate of America by those who pledged their lives, fortunes and sacred honor.

The Founders recognized that the government closest to the people governs best. More often than not, Richmond knows better about the hopes and dreams of the people than Washington. And Galax and Fairfax and Virginia Beach know far better than Richmond.

As we enthusiastically pursue the vision of "A Commonwealth of Opportunity", I ask all Virginians to continue to seek your own opportunities to get involved in the life of our Commonwealth.

Half a century ago President Kennedy challenged the American people to "ask not what your country can do for you - ask what you can do for your country." Today, I ask all Virginians to rise up to meet this timeless challenge.

We live in the most generous nation on Earth. So many Virginians give sacrificially of their time, talents and treasure, and rightly so. The Scriptures say, "To whom much is given, much will be required."

Right now, much is required in the nation of Haiti. And I urge all Virginians to donate to the relief efforts under way.

Here in our Commonwealth, I urge business owners to look for opportunities to sponsor a little league team, help a charity, and promote corporate responsibility in the communities in which you live and work.

Inaugural Address of Governor Robert F. McDonnell



I urge all the leaders of our faith communities to expand your selfless work of helping the homeless, feeding the poor, and comforting the broken hearted.

I urge the young people of Virginia to use your talents and energy to fully engage in the future of this Commonwealth.

I urge Virginians who came here from other lands to contribute your culture, your history and your traditions to our rich tapestry of life.

I urge every Virginian to take every opportunity to thank a man or woman in a law enforcement or military uniform for the preservation of our freedoms.

There is so much each one of us can do to leave this Commonwealth a better place than we found it.

No government program can substitute for the incredible good done through voluntary actions performed freely by caring individuals every day.

And while government can help provide opportunities, it is every person's responsibility to take advantage of them.

In recent weeks I've seen people exercising that responsibility, and changing lives at:

The Healing Place in Richmond.

The Carpenter's Shelter in Alexandria.

Food Banks in Abingdon, Norfolk and Richmond.

The Boys and Girls Club in Virginia Beach.

The USO in Norfolk.

As a Commonwealth, we must do the same ... and we will.

Standing here today, on the steps of our State Capitol, in the inspiring shadows of the shared history behind us, we embrace the limitless future opportunities stretching out far before us.

And now it is here, in this place, that we pledge to work together to create "A Commonwealth of Opportunity" ... for all Virginians, and to add our steps to Virginia's journey.

It was George Washington who noted, in his first Inaugural Address, "The propitious smiles of Heaven can never be expected to remain on a nation that disregards the eternal rules of order and right which Heaven itself has ordained."

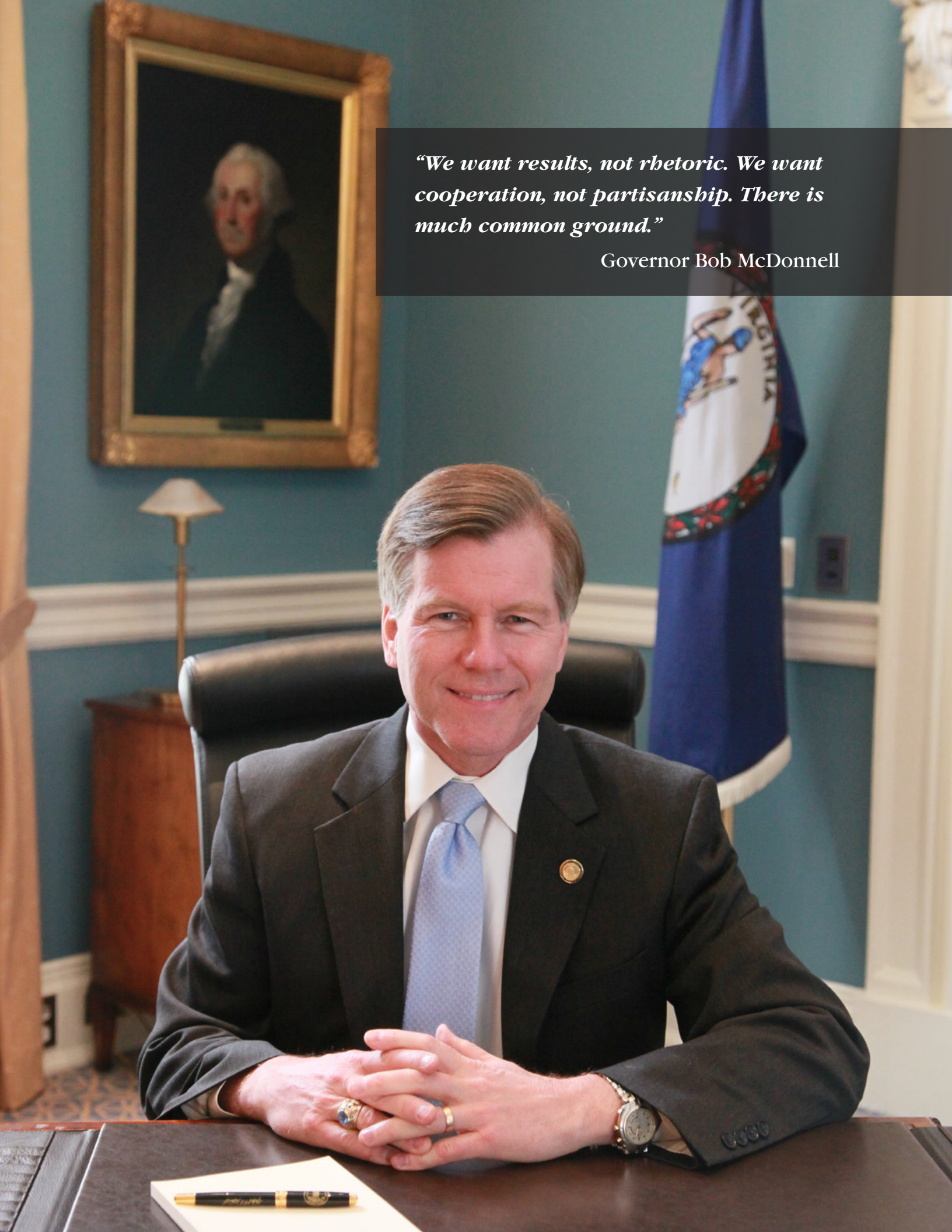
It is right to help one another.

It is right to work together to get results and solve problems.

It is right to provide opportunities for all.

Let us heed the words of the Father of our Country, employ these eternal rules of order and right, and get to work for the good of the people of Virginia.

Thank you and God Bless the Commonwealth of Virginia.

A portrait of Governor Bob McDonnell sitting at his desk in an office. He is wearing a dark suit, a light blue shirt, and a blue tie. His hands are clasped on the desk. In the background, there is a framed portrait of an older man, a lamp, and the Virginia state flag.

“We want results, not rhetoric. We want cooperation, not partisanship. There is much common ground.”

Governor Bob McDonnell

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